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# CHAPTER 608 ANIMALS

MARCH 21, 2017 CITY COMMISSION WORKSHOP



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## BASIS FOR CH. 608 ANIMALS

- Adopted in 1978 to address:
  - Humane Care
  - Safety
  - Protection
  - Enforcement
- Primarily addresses dogs, cats, and amended in 1995 to address ferrets.

## BASIS FOR THE REVISION

- Reasonable Regulation
  - Humane care
  - Safety
  - Protection
- Clarification
  - Remove uncertainty
  - Alleviate concerns with meanings of words and phrases
- Enforcement
  - Two Animal Control Officers
    - Community Services Division of Battle Creek Police Department
    - Respond to complaints
    - Educate

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- Community discussions
  - Commission workshop
  - Meeting with advocates
  - Surveys
  - Emails
  - Phone calls
  - Social media

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT EFFORTS – CH. 608 ANIMALS

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- Public Workshop - September 2016
    - 50+ people in attendance
    - Discussed proposed changes
    - New issue of feral cats
  - City Commission Workshop – October 2016
  - Feral Cat Survey - January 2017 Survey
    - 370 responses, 185 were Battle Creek residents
    - Emails, phone calls, social media comments gathered

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT EFFORTS – CH. 608 ANIMALS, CONT.

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## 608.30 FERAL CATS

### PROPOSED OPTION TO ADDRESS FERAL CATS

Definitions

Caregiver RESPONSIBILITIES

Animal Control DUTIES

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## 608.30 FERAL CATS

### PROPOSED OPTION TO ADDRESS FERAL CATS

#### Caregiver RESPONSIBILITIES

- Food and water
- Monitor colonies
- Trap, neuter/spay, release
- Health & welfare

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## 608.30 FERAL CATS

### PROPOSED OPTION TO ADDRESS FERAL CATS

#### Animal Control DUTIES

- Registrations
- Monitoring caregivers
- Nuisance cats
- Compliance

## URBAN LIVESTOCK - BASIS FOR THE ORDINANCE

- Occasional requests – via email, phone, in-person
  - Food security and access
  - Food safety
- Occasional complaints regarding violations
  - Complaints received from P/Z chiefly center around loose hens
  - Neighborhood disputes
- Good Food BC findings and assessment
- Urban Agriculture policy / sample ordinance, commissioned by Sprout Urban Farms

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- Commission workshop #1 – February 2016
    - Presentation of local policy / sample ordinance, commissioned by Sprout Urban Farms
  - Public Roundtable #1 – June 2016
    - 80+ in attendance
  - Roundtable #1 Surveys
    - 18 surveys submitted
  - Survey Monkey Survey – June/July 2016
    - 406 responses

**Initial engagement centered around both urban **farming** & urban **livestock**; seeking input on specific activities/animals and potential allowances and limitations. Early on it was clear that urban gardening/farming, with limitations, would be acceptable.**

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT EFFORTS – URBAN LIVESTOCK

**Focus transitioned to urban livestock. Closer look at what specific animals should be considered as well as potential allowances and limitations. Included deeper dive into concerns to be able to analyze any potential regulations that could help mitigate those concerns.**

- Public Roundtable #2 – August 2016
    - 40+ in attendance
  - Concern / Opposition Survey – September 2016
    - 61 responses
  - City Commission Workshop #2 – October 2016
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- Emails, phone calls, social media comments gathered throughout
  - Team meetings with City Attorney's Office, Animal Control, Community Services

**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT EFFORTS – URBAN LIVESTOCK, CONT.**

## URBAN LIVESTOCK - BASIS FOR THE ORDINANCE

What was used to develop the draft ordinance?

- Community Engagement – requests, allowances, concerns, limitations, etc.
- Sprout Urban Farms policy, findings, and sample ordinance
- All Species Kinship memo and sample ordinance
- Research and Analysis of other community allowances and ordinances
  - 15 Communities (same as for all analysis) – Ann Arbor, Battle Creek, Bay City, Charlotte, Detroit, Emmett Twp, Flint, Grand Rapids, Jackson, Kalamazoo, Lansing, Marshall, Muskegon, Portage, Saginaw
  - 10 of the 15 allow urban livestock on residential parcel, all with limitations based on lot size, number, setbacks, care, etc.
- Research and Analysis of local land use and parcel data

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## 608.31 URBAN LIVESTOCK

### PROPOSED OPTION TO ALLOW LIMITED URBAN LIVESTOCK

Allowances

Animal Units/Parcel Size Calculations

Regulations based on animal/number – Rabbits, Hens, Dwarf Goats, Honey Bees

Maintenance and Care

Permit and License Required

## NOW WHAT?

- Answer any remaining questions not addressed in draft ordinances:
  - Need direction on feral cat
  - Need direction on urban livestock
- Revise Ch. 608 based on City Commission comments.
- Submit to City Commission for introduction of ordinance and adoption.

Questions? Thoughts? Comments?